

# NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Meeting October 15, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC), was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Drew Bedwell, \*Ann Guerra, Patti Ingram (alternate), Chet Krage, Josh Susman, \*Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: Linda Stevens

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:36 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Arnett stated for the record, that due to his work schedule, he would be leaving at 1:00 p.m.

### 1. Financial Reports: September 2003

Executive Director Landon stated that attached to the financial report for Fund 327 was a memo explaining how state revenues were double counted in error and how it would be prevented in the future.

Commissioner Bedwell questioned if any of the monies in Fund 5806 (Pedestrian/Bike) and Fund 5231 (Vehicle Refurbishment and Replacement) could be used for other purposes.

Executive Director Landon responded that once Local Transportation Funds are allocated for administration and planning, 2% of the remaining amount of revenue is apportioned to the Pedestrian and Bike Fund. The Commission could make a finding that those funds could be better used for other purposes. Mr. Landon explained that the revenues in Fund 5231 were an allocation the County had requested, and the Commission was holding in trust, for refurbishment and replacement of transit vehicles. Nevada County could request a change in the allocation to use the funds for other purposes.

\*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at 8:39 a.m.

### 2. Correspondence.

C. California Transportation Commission - Adoption of Federal FY 2003/04 Elderly and Disabled Persons Transit Program.

Executive Director Landon stated that Gold Country Telecare, Inc. was successful in being awarded five vehicles in the 2004/05 FY through this Federal Transit Administration Grant Section 5310. He briefly explained the scoring criteria used and stated there would be a 20% match required for the purchase of the vehicles.

- D. California Department of Transportation - Federal funds will be made available for transit services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities for FY 2004/05.

Executive Director Landon stated this was a notice to inform non-profit agencies how they could apply for FTA 5310 grant funds.

3. Executive Director's Report:

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

Executive Director Landon stated that per the 2004 STIP Development Schedule, a STIP fund estimate would be available in December that will provide the Commission information to develop a listing of proposed projects to be submitted in April for the 2004 STIP Program. This would provide the Commission an opportunity to work with Caltrans in reformatting the SR 49 widening project to program money for a construction project. However, based on some of the preliminary assumptions, there may not be money to add projects into the next STIP. There may even be a possibility of having to delete or delay current projects in order to balance the program.

Idaho Maryland Road/East Main Street Intersection Improvement Project

Executive Director Landon stated that when the stakeholders met on October 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a strong consensus to move forward with development of a Concept Approval Report and Project Study Report for this project. A proposal by Bickett Engineering to prepare these reports is included in Action Item #7 of the agenda packet (Amendment I to the 2003/04 OWP, Resolution 03-23).

Dorsey Drive Interchange Status Report

Executive Director Landon noted staff is continuing to work with the state on this project and Tom Brannon will provide information on it in his report.

SR 49/Crestview Drive Intersection/Interchange Project Report

Executive Director Landon stated that the revised cost proposal to do this work was \$318,408 and the developers of this project will pay for the project reports. Mr. Landon stated that he supported this activity and placed it the Overall Work Program for the Commission's approval in order to move forward with it. Project reports are to be done for two potential projects. The first report will be for an at-grade intersection and the second report will be for an interchange. As the project report is prepared, a schedule will be developed to show when the interchange will be needed in the future. The second report will provide preliminary data only for an interchange and the environmental documentation will not be done until the interchange is needed. The intersection project report will take about a year to complete and the preliminary set of data for the interchange will provide a picture of what SR 49 will look like in this area.

Executive Director Landon stated that part of this project is to develop a fiscal analysis that will anticipate how the interchange will be paid for and what the pro-rata shares of surrounding development would be.

Commissioner Krage asked if the report will identify what is expected to be throw-away money by first constructing the at-grade intersection and then later developing an interchange. Mr. Landon responded that the amount of throw-away money would be minimized as the interchange is not on top of the intersection, which has to continue functionally while the interchange is being built. There will be some duplication costs, but they will be paid for by the developers.

4A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager.

➤ Dorsey Drive Interchange

Mr. Brannon stated that a design team has been assigned to this project and the traffic and right-of-way departments are ready to begin work on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He was having difficulty getting environmental staff. On October 27<sup>th</sup> a Risk Management Plan meeting will be held whereby the stakeholders and the Caltrans functional divisions will discuss all the possible problems that could occur on this project, and discuss what steps or mitigation will be taken to resolve those possible problems. Mr. Brannon provided information on an accounting overcharge that was made to this project and how it is being resolved.

Commissioner Sutherland expressed her concern that the Dorsey Drive interchange schedule may slip back and asked Mr. Brannon to provide a brief summary of what the environmental costs would be if this project were to be contracted out. She stated she would take this item before the Board of Supervisors to reiterate the fact that the Dorsey Drive interchange is an urgent one for the County and is not to be delayed by even two months.

Executive Director Landon responded he shared Commissioner Sutherland's concerns and had discussed with Mr. Brannon the potential to change the lead agency status for this project. He stated that the problem lies with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocation freeze. When the CTC is able to start accepting project allocations and project changes again, Mr. Landon will review the option of changing the lead agency status to the NCTC.

➤ Widening of SR 49 from the Bear River to Wolf/Combie Intersection

Mr. Brannon stated two problems have been encountered on this project. Contaminated soil was discovered at the old Streeter Road Park-and-Ride lot and the Bear River Bridge had too much camber or curvature. Due to these two problems, there is a possibility that not all of the travel lanes will be open to the public this fall. Caltrans has started the process to request G12 funds. These funds are set aside in the contract for such contingencies. Mr. Brannon stated he did not anticipate a problem of getting the additional money needed to finish the job, including the aesthetic features for the bridge.

Mr. Brannon stated that the new Park-and-Ride lot will be at the Calvary Chapel of Grass Valley church parking lot and that he hoped it would be completed within a few weeks.

Commissioner Krage noted that the new signal at the Wolf/Combie Road intersection had green arrows for the north and south bound right turn lanes, but there were none for the east and westbound right turn lanes. He stated that these were critical to have because the short right turn pocket lanes will clog and backup through traffic. He asked Mr. Brannon to check if they were to be installed.

In response to Commissioner Krage's question if Caltrans was still going to do the grading for the Gateway Monument, Mr. Brannon responded he saw no problem in doing it as it only involved grading and compacting of the soil to form a pad or base for the future monument.

Mr. Michael Hill-Weld, Director of Nevada County's Department of Transportation, stated that when the monument project began to lag during the process of soliciting design proposals for it, it was decided that rather than slow down the contractor on the SR 49 widening project, the County would get an encroachment permit from Caltrans and do the site preparation themselves.

Commissioner Krage stated that an agreement had been made with Caltrans to do the grading foundation, landscaping, and possible underground electrical work for the monument site. He noted that now the money was going to have to come from some other resource. Commissioner Sutherland asked how much money would it take to finish the monument project. Mr. Brannon stated the prep work of the monument site would possibly cost \$5,000.

Commissioner Ingram asked for and Mr. Brannon provided the details on how the curvature problem of the bridge occurred and how it was rectified.

➤ Truckee Traffic Signals and Roundabouts

Mr. Brannon stated that the approval for the Concept Approval Report (CAR) was not complete. The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) is going to be a major player in this project. This was not anticipated. The FHWA will need to be involved in and give approval of the roundabout design and other project steps along the way.

4B. SR 49 at La Barr Meadows Road Update: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans Planner.

Ms. Robinson stated that as a result of her observation of traffic activities on SR 49 at the La Barr Meadows Road intersection, she realized the safety issue was not just a Caltrans problem. She provided the Commission a handout of a matrix she had made of the options and ideas that had been presented at previous meetings and offered the following suggestions.

- The California Highway Patrol should be involved to enforce the 55 mph speed limit and headlight usage.
- Wayne Raley from AARP stated that they provide drivers training for persons fifty-five years of age and older and should be asked to meet with the residents living in the three mobile home parks. The training program costs \$10 per person and the driver could receive a certificate that would reduce their insurance. Ms. Robinson stated Mr. Raley recommended that no one should make a left turn onto the highway in that area.
- Gold Country Stage will come into the mobile home parks if transit services is called a half-hour before the scheduled stop.
- Contact U.C. Berkeley to arrange for a free traffic safety evaluation of the area. This evaluation would provide for a third party involvement. Mr. Landon stated that if the Commission were interested, he would fax a request to UC Berkeley to be placed on the list for the intersection to be evaluated.

Ms. Robinson then reviewed some of the suggestions that had been offered for improving safety at that location.

\*Commissioner Guerra arrived at 9:15 a.m.

A discussion occurred between Commissioner Bedwell and Mr. Brannon exploring Commissioner Bedwell's idea of extending Welsh Lane.

Commissioner Sutherland stated that the chart Ms. Robinson provided indicated there was a high propensity of accidents between the ages of sixteen and thirty-two and suggested that educational programs also be presented to that age group, and not just to seniors.

Commissioner Krage stated he would like additional options placed on the list. He stated he saw a problem at the two entrances to the Mountain Air Mobile Home Park where there are no stop signs, lane indicators, or lines indicating where to stop. Ms. Robinson responded she would speak to the owners of the park regarding this matter. Commissioner Krage noted that some of the suggested safety solutions, such as flashing lights and signage, were to be done quickly, and they have yet to be done. Signage needed to be installed to indicate that an intersection was ahead and the CHP portable radar trailer should be periodically used in that area.

Chairman Susman reiterated what he had stated at the last Commission meeting that he believed it would be more productive if the ad hoc committee met on the safety issues for this intersection and brought information back to the Commission. He suggested using a traffic calming effect by narrowing the lanes. If the driver perceives the lanes are narrower, they will slow down. Chairman Susman reviewed the suggestions that Ms. Robinson presented and encouraged getting results. Commissioner Krage stated he supported Chairman Susman's comments. Commissioner Bedwell stated he would contact the residents on Welsh Lane and the property owners nearby and present his concept to them in exploring the possibility of local interaction.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding the need to contact managers of the mobile home parks and inform them and their residents of the availability of the Gold Country Stage coming into the park and of the AARP training program that was available to them.

Commissioner Sutherland stated the need to reiterate the importance of enforcing the 55 mph speed limit and the headlight law and suggested sending a letter to the California Highway Patrol.

Chairman Susman asked that in the letter to the CHP a request be made that a radar trailer be installed at the intersection; if that was not possible, then to borrow one possibly from the cities.

Harriet McKay, Nevada City resident, stated she believed a signal light at the SR 49 and La Barr Meadows Road intersection would help and asked the Commission to revisit the idea.

#### CONSENT ITEM:

5. NCTC Minutes: September 17, 2003. *Approved.*

Motion made by Commissioner Krage to approve the consent item. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. Commissioner Ingram abstained. The motion passed.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

6. NCTC Meeting Schedule for 2004.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to approve the NCTC meeting schedule for 2004. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Amendment I to the 2003/04 Overall Work Program.

Executive Director Landon reviewed the budget adjustments and modifications made to the work elements of the OWP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to approve Resolution 03-22 and Resolution 03-23. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Krage complimented staff on a "tremendous" newsletter. He stated that the layout for the Gold Country Stage changes and the bridge concept was "excellent work".

Commissioner Bedwell, referring to the first page of the newsletter where it asked what Nevada County residents could do to improve and help finance the Gold Country Stage and Telecare services stated they could shop locally. That is where the money comes from. The County was strapped now because money was flowing out of it and into other counties. Commissioner Bedwell stated, "shopping locally will help our transit needs".

Commissioner Arnett stated that in Nevada City they say, "think globally, shop locally".

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman  
Nevada County Transportation Commission